

School Council Minutes

15th February 2019

Attendance:

Y7: Matthew Penney
 Y8: Marissa Heron, Matthew Randall
 Y9: Max Haggerty, Phoebe Allen
 Y10: Emma Woodford, Theo Browning
 Y11: Tom Swift, Bryony Ames
 Y12: Maisy Hicks, Dannan White
 Heads of School Council: Matthew Ward, Maddy Pietrzkiwicz
 School Council Co-Ordinator – Miss Scriven
 Anti-Discrimination/Bullying Co-Ordinator - Ms Mack
 Guest Speaker- Seth Lake

Absence:

Y7: Madison Thomas.

Matters Arising & Feedback from Year Council Meetings:

More water fountains have been widely requested – particularly in Z blocks	<i>Mr Lavis will enquire but not a lot of water goes in that direct in terms of pipes to take water from, so it may be unworkable</i>
Suggestion of toilets in Z blocks – as much of the lesson can be missed when walking to and from the nearest (humanities/ 'core block') toilets	<i>Mr Lavis advised that this is not possible due to the need to pump sewage uphill</i>
Students would like more outside shelter	<i>Mr Lavis pointed out that this is too expensive but wondered if the council could come up with some fundraising ideas</i>
Locker Rooms – whilst we understand that there have been issues with behaviour in the past, we feel that it is unfair to disadvantage current students who haven't even had the opportunity to access their locker rooms until after bells, making them late for their own lessons. The feeling is that the students who wish to use their lockers aren't the ones culpable for prior incidents, but are still being punished for them without being given the chance to prove otherwise	<i>Can the council come up with some suggestions for ways forward with this issue?</i>
The canteen staff have pointed out that wooden cutlery is now available'– why is plastic still being provided then? Surely sourcing both isn't economically efficient- can we move to just wooden? The canteen does offer students the chance to use a plate and metal cutlery but only two students a day chose to do so. This is not being advertised to students – and the council believe that many would take up this option if they were aware of it	<i>Whilst stocks of plastic cutlery is still in place it would be wasteful not to use it. The canteen have also encountered difficulties with suppliers when trying to obtain the wooden cutlery, so they need to have an alternative. Mrs Scriven will ask the canteen to advertise the ability to use a plate and metal cutlery more widely</i>
Year 8 have raised concerns that more credits are being awarded to girls than boys	<i>Mr Carey will follow this up with Mrs Moon</i>

<p>Students feel it is unfair to be forced to be outside when it is wet and/or cold and have suggested that wet weather rooms could be used for both wet and cold weather</p>	<p><i>Mr Lavis has pointed out that this should be the case. If it's too cold then students should be able to use the 'inclement weather rooms'.</i></p> <p><i>Mr de Souza also reiterated that at lunchtimes wet weather rooms are open when it is wet and open if it is very cold. However, as Mr Godfrey pointed out, students need to use some common sense and not all try to get in the same room but spread out across the rooms</i></p>
<p>Rugby for girls - Girls would like to be able to play rugby in PE lessons</p>	<p><i>Mr Yeo has responded that there is currently a lower school lunchtime club running which approx. 6-8 girls have been turning up to. If these numbers were to get larger than we may consider putting it on the curriculum. It is always offered as an activity in years 10/11 but again, not enough girls put it down as an option to make it viable</i></p>
<p>Mountain bikes should be used more – why spend money on good equipment if only occasionally used. A lot of students don't see the appeal of cycling around a field for an hour, could the club/PE option be made more exciting</p>	<p><i>Mr Yeo replied - it always depends on how many students in years 10/11 put it down as one of their option choices (this year there was enough for one group in year 10 and one in year 11) We also try to limit usage to September/October and the summer term, when the weather is better. This limits damage to the fields as well as to the bikes, which are costly to maintain and look after. Certainly in lessons students are not just riding around a field for an hour. There are several areas which we use, which are deemed safe, some more challenging than others. Tasks vary such as short sprints on circular banked courses, timed courses through trees and bushes, uphill climbs, relays etc. There is a lunchtime club for lower school</i></p>
<p>Holiday homework – there was a suggestion that homework set for lower school students exclusively over holidays defeats the point of a holiday. Is this necessary for the younger years? Particularly when work is set right at the end of term and due in straight after the holiday, leaving students with no option than to do often extensive projects over a 'holiday</p>	<p><i>Mrs Turnbull had some sympathy and Mr Lavis will raise this with Heads of Department</i></p>
<p>Toilets - several toilets remain broken for extensive periods of time, particularly in the IT corridor and 'humanities'. Some individual toilet cubical doors seem to have been removed (particularly male humanities toilets), and other doors don't lock properly, could this be fixed?</p>	<p><i>We do try but there are a minority of students who keep breaking the toilets / vandalising them. The frustrating thing is that the majority of good students are turning a blind eye and failing to report the damage. Mr Lavis will speak to Mr Best about the repairs</i></p>
<p>6th form lockers – are these available if students want them? Some 6th formers have expressed an interest</p>	<p><i>Mr Lavis has advised the 6th Form Council representatives to speak to their Heads of Year</i></p>
<p>School Council Minutes contain much valuable information to students but it is felt that the majority of tutors do not read out or make Minutes available to their tutees. School Council can never be a valuable student resource or a means of feedback for teachers if it isn't advocated by all teachers.</p>	<p><i>Miss Scriven does ask tutors to make time for School Council Minutes in staff briefings but she is aware that tutors and tutees are very busy in the 20 minutes they have in tutor time and the minutes are extensive and, therefore, take time to get through. However, she will raise this issue with Heads of Year and ask tutors to post the minutes in tutor bases</i></p>

Any other business:

- Please see the separate sheet outlining some of the discussions the Council had with Mrs Mack concerning bullying

Charity Fundraising Suggestions:

- Form a link between school and the charity.
- Non School Uniform Day.
- Health/awareness day.
- Competitions.
- Careers evenings – international development.

Environmental Awareness and Charity Fundraising

- Recycling – more facilities to recycle and for a wider variety of materials – food waste, cans?
- Reduce packaging/plastic in the canteen – at least to be recycled.
- Unsold canteen food gets binned – can it go to a food bank?
- LED lighting. **Mr Lavis replied that the school has fitted somewhere around 700 of these in the last 12 months and there is a continued programme of renewal of old lighting.**
- Double Glazed Windows. **It is not thought that we have any single glaze left**
- Huge roof surfaces – introduction of water butts, for use in gardening, potentially toilet flushing etc. **This is not possible as all subsidies & grants are gone.**
- More solar panels – are there government subsidies available for solar power and schools?
- Water tank on creative arts – is it being used? **Yes but we're under pressure to get rid of large water tanks due to Legionella**
- Suggestions by charity committee (Y12):
 - School needs to become more sustainable.
 - Healthy bake sale.
 - Upper School Clothes Swap.
 - Vegetarian etc. challenges.
 - Use sustainable companies.
 - Coconut and Cotton – Shaftesbury – ran by ex-student?
 - Establish eco group – make a continuing position – not to end after one year.
- Does the canteen use palm oil? Can that stop? **Miss Scriven will discuss minutes associated with the canteen with Tracey and report back at the next council meeting**
- Make litter picking positive, or, more litter picking detentions?
- Can we grow more of our own vegetables for use in the canteen?
- Can students bring in their own food to be heated by the canteen?
- Assemblies on the environment.
- Have the solar panels on science paid for themselves/ are they going to do so?